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DEC 08 2004

In re Application of
Suzanne Benedict et al
Application No. 10/754,171
Filed: January 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No. PC25144A

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed September 8, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/439,396, filed January 9, 2003, as set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on January 9, 2004, within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application, Application No. 60/439,396, which was filed on January 9, 2003, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed provisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional application was submitted during the pendency of the

nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/439,396 is granted.

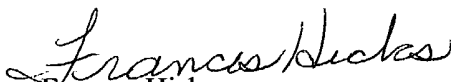
The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

After this decision is mailed, deposit account No. 50-0329 will be charged \$1,330.00 for the petition fee.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Wan Laymon at (571) 272-3220.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 1625 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted September 8, 2004, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/439,396.



Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt